

November 24, 2003
Case No.: DP-304354 (7500/51)
Serial No.: 09/822,916
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As will be described and shown more fully herein, a predetermined tensile force is applied to the upper and lower assemblies 16, 18; 12, 14 (by, for example, a testing device manufactured by Instron Corporation, and shown generally at FIG. 2). The tensile force stretches the fastener (not shown) across the joint 19. An instrument in the fastener detects the amount of strain in the fastener and an associated processor assigns a value corresponding to the amount of strain detected by the instrument. The instrument can be, for example, a fiber-optic sensor. The value represents the amount of strain in the fastener at the predetermined tensile force.